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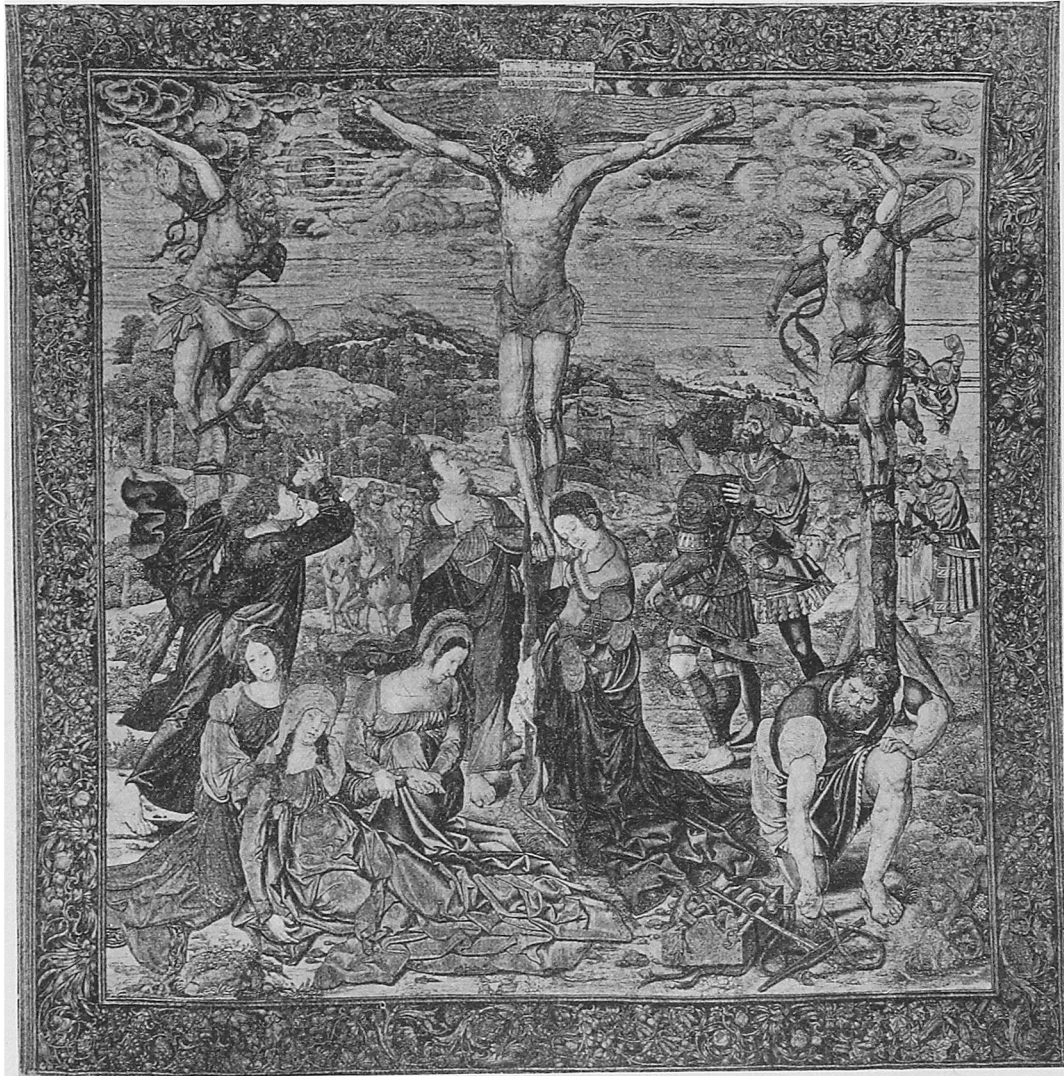
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*THE DOLLFUS CRUCIFIXION*  
Woven about the year 1525

—Courtesy P. W. French & Co., New York

## A Notable Collection of Tapestries

OF all the treasures of art none are more interesting or decorative than fine old tapestries. Choice examples are not so often to be seen in this country and those which we illustrate, being among the rarest of the world's offerings, are therefore worthy of considerable note. They were purchased by P. W. French & Company from the recent J. P. Morgan sale and each has a long and interesting history, having always figured as a possession of some prince of the realm, the church or finance. They represent also three different periods in art history and all are superb examples of their kind.

The famous Mazarin tapestry, purchased for \$500,000, is entitled "The Triumph of Christ and the New Dispensation." This tapestry was once owned by Cardinal Mazarin who was the ruling power in France during the minority of Louis XIV. It was woven about the year 1500 and is said to excel in weave and perfection of texture, as well as in picture and story interest, all other known tapestries. Christ sits on the throne in the upper half of the middle wing of the tapestry, His right hand raised in benediction, His left hand holding open a richly illuminated book of the gospels, while angels and saints attend him in attitudes of adoration. The ecclesiastical character of this piece is typical of the art of a time when the church was the chief art patron, and when the influence of the church upon the people generally was such as to render religious subjects particularly desirable.

This is also true of "The Dollfus Crucifixion," woven about the year 1525. It was originally owned by the Duke of Alva and was

in the Palace of Liria, in Madrid. It strongly recalls primitive Flemish art, the landscape background being quite characteristic of this school as are also the faces, figures and postures of the actors in this tragic scene. It was sold in 1877 in Paris at the Berwick and Alva sale, for 25,000 francs, to Jean Dollfus. It was resold in April, 1912, for 300,000 francs, to Jacques Seligman, and later purchased by Mr. Morgan, from whose collection it was secured by P. W. French & Company for \$200,000. It has been resold by them but the buyer's name cannot be revealed at present.

The King of Spain tapestry, on the other hand, is full of the spirit of licentiousness and romance and the love of elegance and luxury that dominated the artistocracy of its day. There are five pieces in this series, of which this is one, picturing the story of Don Quixote. They were designed by Charles Coypel in the first part of the reign of Louis XV but the actual weaving was done in the reign of Louis XVI.

This tapestry is graceful and beautiful, with Louis XVI damasse grounds and border, and is quite characteristic of all of the delicate art products of this regime.

Such works are in a way historical documents, so much of the costumes and manners, thoughts and feelings of their times have been woven into them. The subjects herewith reproduced being distinct in style and character, each telling the story of the people and the age that produced it and all gain in interest through these contrasts, afford a fascinating study for those who are interested in tapestries. No sale of recent years can approach them in importance. It is not only one of the events of the year but of art history.